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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,925	12/10/2003	Dan Dalton	D-21,382	6711
27182	7590	09/20/2005		EXAMINER
PRAXAIR, INC. LAW DEPARTMENT - M1 557 39 OLD RIDGEBURY ROAD DANBURY, CT 06810-5113				WALKER, ZAKIYA NICOLE
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/730,925	DALTON, DAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Zakiya N. Walker	3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04292004</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,899,817 (US'817, cited by applicant), US 4,678,036 (US'036, cited by applicant), or US 6,170,264 (US'264).

Each reference discloses a method that includes a method for removing hydrocarbon solids from an oil well comprising: (a) feeding into an oil well having hydrocarbon solids therein a feed composition comprising at least 40 vol.% dense phase carbon dioxide and at least 30 vol.% of an alkanol component selected from the group consisting of alkanols containing 1 to 3 carbon atoms and mixtures thereof, and optionally one or more surfactants, under a pressure of 300 to 10,000 psia and a temperature of 90⁰F to 120⁰F, (b) allowing the feed composition to remain in the well, whereby hydrocarbon solids in the well solubilize with said composition, and then (c) removing from said well a liquid product composition comprising said solubilized hydrocarbon solids and alkanol. With respect to the depending claims, the references teach the limitations as claimed.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,495,995, US 4,113,011, US 5,045,220, US 5,022,467, or US 4,609,043.

Each reference discloses a method that includes a method for removing hydrocarbon solids from an oil well comprising: (a) feeding into an oil well having hydrocarbon solids therein a feed composition comprising at least 40 vol.% dense phase carbon dioxide and at least 30 vol.% of an alkanol component selected from the group consisting of alkanols containing 1 to 3 carbon atoms and mixtures thereof, and optionally one or more surfactants, under a pressure of 300 to 10,000 psia and a temperature of 90⁰F to 120⁰F, (b) allowing the feed composition to remain in the well, whereby hydrocarbon solids in the well solubilize with said composition, and then (c) removing from said well a liquid product composition comprising said solubilized hydrocarbon solids and alkanol. With respect to the depending claims, the references teach the limitations as claimed, including feeding a surfactant.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zakiya N. Walker whose telephone number is (571) 272-7039. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on (571) 272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Zakiya N. Walker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3676

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September 14, 2005